



# MagiCurrents

San Diego Ring 76

July 2022

VOL. XXXVII # 7

## June Meeting a Cornucopia The Last Lecture of the Year a Delight for All

Noted entertainer **Gregory Wilson** was the highlight of the June meeting as guest lecturer for the end of the 2021-22 calendar year. Twenty four members and eight guests enjoyed his performance, jokes, and information. Then they swamped his dealer table. After the meeting, Gregory joined several members for the post meeting, at the local Denny's to continue to educate and entertain. It was a great way for Ring 76 to close out a successful first year of post-pandemic live meetings.

President "**Magic Mike**" Stilwell started the meeting on time and asked the guests to introduce themselves. "**Magic Mike**" thanked the magicians who volunteered for the Wheelchair Regatta, which included "**Magic Mike**," **Alvin Revilas**, **Miguel Garcia**, **Greg Wauson**, **Matthew King**, and "**Mr. Funtastic**." "**Magic Mike**" reminded all members that they also have to be members of international IBM, and that dues were due by the end of June. Next "**Magic Mike**" handled the annual election of the Board of Directors with the consent of the Election Committee.

With no floor nominations he asked for a vote on the slate of officers presented by the current Board of Directors, as required by the Ring Constitution. The members present voted and the Board was approved. The new Board will be sworn in by the Territorial Vice-President at the July Installation Banquet. **Gary Salisbury** announced there was a total of \$134 in the monthly opportunity drawing. "**Magic Mike**" then announced the door prizes, and our special guest lecturer, **Gregory Wilson**, pulled the winning tickets (in his comedic style). Winners were **Richard Wira** and guest Tim Wise. Cary Schaffner won the opportunity drawing and with that "**Magic Mike**" turned the meeting over to the V.P of Entertainment, **Greg Wauson**.

Greg started the entertainment portion of the affair by with telling members about how he met our lecturer at an IBM convention, and **Gregory** chimed in on the story before starting his

lecture. **Gregory** completed another informative lecture for Ring 76, which included all new material, explanations, and examples of misdirection. Many members purchased some of **Gregory's** magic items following the lecture. It was not only informative but everyone seemed to have a good time as well.



**Gregory Wilson** entertains and educates—MB

**Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.**

*Secretary **Matthew King**. Meetings held every 2nd Monday at Immaculate Conception Church in Old Town San Diego.*

**More Pictures inside**

### *Ring 76 2022 Calendar*

July 10th Sunday - Installation Banquet  
August 8th – Math Magic\*

\*Opportunity for Members to Perform

Direct any questions concerning the calendar to  
V.P. of Entertainment, **Greg Wauson**.

Also See the *Trick of the Month* on Page 5

Published by the International Brotherhood of Magicians  
Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Publisher - Richard Ustick, Proof Reader Sherry Luft. Email us at Editor@ring76.com



## President's Message

Dear Ring 76 Members,

Thank you for re-electing me for another term as your President. I'm honored, and without the wonderful Board that we have, our club would not be the success it is today!

At our Installation Banquet please take a moment and thank our hosts, Bob and Mary for sharing their home and providing the food for our event.

Also, thank our Board and new incoming board members, and our TVP Cliff Gerstman who is installing our officers. Our party starts at 2 PM, and parking going to be difficult. Please car pool if possible or even uber/lyft if your near that location.



Just a reminder that dues were due at the end of June and if you have not paid them by now there is a small penalty. They will now be \$35 and you can pay by mail: make a check out to "IBM Ring 76" and send it to: Ring 76; c/o James Thayer; 9556 Babauta Road; San Diego, CA 92129. You can also send your dues via PayPal by sending payment to Payments@Ring76.com. **Be sure to take the Friends and Family** option so that the full amount of your payment will go to the Ring.

**Also, mark your Calendar!** Sunday, July 31st, 2022 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM, and 3:00 PM. **Matt King, Greg Wauson, Mike Stilwell, "Joe Mystic" and Dale Law** will be performing shows at Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Plaza, San Diego, CA and we will also be honored to have world famous Magical Ventriloquist Steve Taylor as our MC. I want to encourage all of Ring 76 to attend with friends and family! Tickets are \$5.00 and the show will run 45 to 50 minutes with three entertainers. This is a family show so feel free to bring your whole family.

The show will be a first for The Puppet theater as they just got the ok from the state to allow other forms of family entertainment at the theater. We may get a chance to do it again in October.

Ring 76 gets 50% of the sales on Sunday, July 31st, 2022 so the more people you bring and tell of this event the more it benefits the theater and **YOUR** Ring.

See you at the Installation Banquet and

Balboa Park's Puppet theater...

*Mike Stilwell,*

President I.B.M. Ring 76

## Alexander Great, Our Installation Banquet Performer

The entertainer at our Installation Banquet on July 10 will be Alexander Great. He's a corporate and trade show performer who has entertained tens of thousands of people during his career. His clients include Disney, CBS, E-Entertainment and Medtronic. He's adept at stage illusions as well as close-up sleight of hand.

Alexander Great began as a magician at age 13 when a childhood friend taught him a trick. Practicing hard and competing at magic conventions, the first fruits of his efforts yielded the first place trophy for stage magic at The Pacific Coast Association of Magicians convention in 1986. The next year he returned with an even more elaborate act, and claimed the first place prize once again. Soon after, he presented illusions for Six Flags Magic Mountain, and later toured Australia as an apprentice to illusionist Chuck Jones, where he learned the real secrets of illusionary magic.

Graduating with a degree in marketing, Alexander returned to the states, performing at the Magic Castle often, where he was presented the highly respected Achievement Award. Soon after, The International Magic Awards featured his act and presented him with a trophy for Best Junior Magician. This nationally televised FOX special was the first of its kind and opened the door to developing even more breathtaking illusions, which he took abroad.

His show was presented in Japan, Stockholm, Rio de Janeiro, Taiwan and Shenzhen, China. Later Alexander Great was featured at Caesars Magical Empire in Las Vegas. He then performed in Lake Tahoe for two years straight at The Horizon Casino Resort. Currently he resides in the entertainment capital of the world, Las Vegas.

He's looking forward to joining us at the beautiful venue provided by Bob and Mary Meigs. This promises to be a show you don't want to miss!





# What's Coming Up

**July: Installation Banquet!** This is *THE* event of the summer! The venue will be the stunning home of Bob and Mary Meigs. Bring your swimsuit and come hungry! We'll have a shave ice truck, a chili contest and tacos for dinner. And the entertainment will be provided by Las Vegas magician Alexander Great. All members who have RSVP'd to **Mark Booth** have received detail by email.

(See Silent Auction details on Page 7)

**August:** Ok, who doesn't love math? Um... that may be a high percentage. Maybe a better question to ask is who doesn't love magic, if it's based on math? Or maybe when that math is cleverly hidden? In any case, our August theme is "**Math Magic.**" Any magic effect which involves numbers or owes its method to math, in one way or another, is fair game. So get out your Martin Gardner books and find something which will WOW us.

**September:** To be announced.

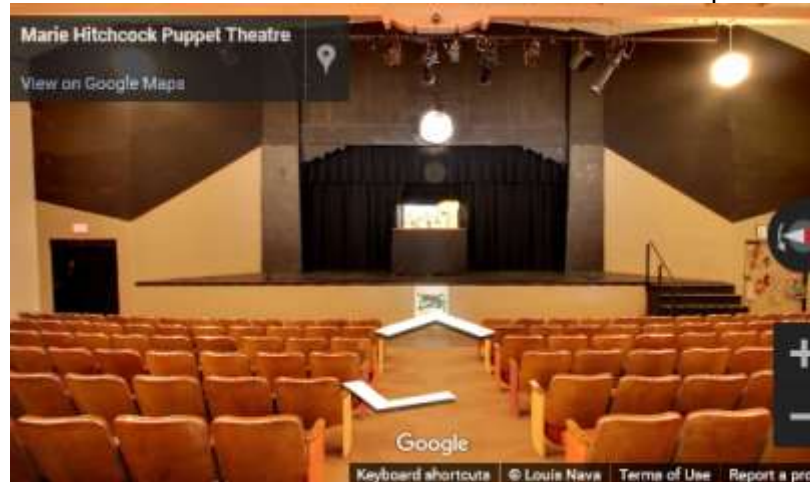
# Magic in Balboa Park

The Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre in Balboa Park will be the venue for three magic shows, presented by members of Ring 76, on Sunday, July 31. It's rare for this theater to be used for anything besides puppetry; kudos to Mike Stilwell and representatives from the puppet theater for coordinating these events. **Matthew King, Dale Law, "Joe Mystic," Mike Stilwell** and **Greg Wauson** are currently scheduled to perform. Master puppeteer and magician Steve Taylor will be the emcee for all three shows.

The Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater has a long history. It was originally part of the 1935 California Pacific International Exposition, which was organized to celebrate the completion of the Panama Canal. That large building was later subdivided into three areas, including the theater. The first public performance at the puppet theater was a marionette show given by Marie Hitchcock and her sister in 1947. Marie continued performing in



the puppet theater until she died in 1994 and the theater was named in Marie's honor in 1988. The theater still runs weekly live performances for thousands of guests each year.



Steve Taylor, the emcee for the shows on July 31, was a nine-year old boy in 1967 when Marie Hitchcock asked him to assist her in the puppet theater. He was thrilled at the opportunity and she gave him more and more opportunities to work there. He soon developed a love for puppetry as well as magic. From the encouragement given to him by Marie, Steve decided to make a career out of his passion for performing with puppets and magic. It will be fun to enjoy Steve as he is returning to the theater he grew up in.

Performances will be at 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM, and 3:00 PM and ticket prices for all shows will be just \$5. The low price is mandated by the theater. Tickets are expected to be available soon on the theater website, <https://balboaparkpuppets.com/products/tickets>. This is a great opportunity to showcase to the public some of the talents of local magicians. Come on out and support magic in Balboa Park!

To get to the theater, from Park Boulevard take President's Way in to the park. At the end of this road is a parking lot to your left. The theater is located on the west side of this lot and to the right of the Automotive Museum. Look for puppet show signs to help direct you.



Steve Taylor, emcee for the shows on July 31





## Shavings from the Board



*The Ring 76 Board of Directors meets, via zoom, on the fourth Monday of every month (except December). The meetings are open to all members in good standing.*

### MINUTES OF RING 76 BOARD MEETING

June 27, 2022

The June board meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President “**Magic Mike**” Stilwell. Also in attendance were First VP (Entertainment) **Greg Wauson**, Second VP (Membership) **James Thayer**, Treasurer “**Joe Mystic**” **McGrievy**, Sergeant at Arms **David Chiu**, Secretary **Matthew King**, Librarian and Member-at-large **Gary Salisbury**, Social Media Rep and Member-at-large **Mark Booth**, and Member-at-large **Richard Ustick**, member and incoming Treasurer **Miguel Garcia**, member **Sherry Luft**, and member **Rich Robertson**.

The Reports from the various officers were first presented and then discussed and approved.

#### Old Business

**Matthew King** gave a store update and also discussed holding a silent auction again at the banquet. He then brought up the Superior Quality Ring Award application and its progress. **Mark Booth** showed his screen with the list of attendees for the installation banquet and reviewed the schedule for the chili-cook off with a total of seven entrants. **Mark** will pick up spoons, bowls for after the tasting, drinks, ice, more. **Bob** and **Mary** will be providing lemonade, and **Bob** asked to run the shave ice from 2:30-4:30, dinner service at 4:30 and ice cream as 5 pm. We discussed the awards and prizes. “**Magic Mike**” asked about writing a letter for “**Mago Ruly**” to help him get to the meetings. **Bob** discussed another show to add to our Superior Quality Ring application. **Greg** discussed the timing of the show.

#### NEW BUSINESS



“**Magic Mike**” said magician Steve Taylor reached out to him to do some magic shows at the Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater. It would be three magic shows on July 31st, which would be advertised on KPBS. A show at 11:00 am., 1:00 pm., and 3:00 pm. Steve Taylor will emcee, and 50% of the proceeds would go to Ring 76. “**Magic Mike**” and “**Joe Mystic**” went to view it and the theater will provide lights and sound. “**Magic Mike**” indicated that **Greg**, **Matthew** and he have volunteered. “**Magic Mike**” mentioned he will encourage club members to attend. **Matthew** suggested **Mark** create a Facebook event for the IBM Ring 76 Members Page. “**Magic Mike**” asked about reprinting the brochures for the magic shops, and the Board decided to talk about it at the next meeting. **Matthew** suggested keeping the previous meeting themes listed on the website to show people the past themes and events.

With Newsletter requirements presented the meeting was adjourned.





## Trick of the Month Club #6 Miser's Dream

Bob Meigs

In *Miser's Dream*, the magician produces coins from *thin air* (or anywhere), and drops them into a *coin pail*. This was a favorite routine of the great *T. Nelson Downs*, more than 100 years ago.

*Miser's Dream* is based on the even-older trick - *producing a coin from a child's ear*. With the addition of the *pail*, the magician can *repeat the effect* with coin-after-coin, which is the effect we now call *Miser's Dream*.

The routine requires two magical "*moves*" - *palming* a coin, and a "*bucket drop*." Virtually every stage magician has performed this routine, and if you don't know how it works, **you should!**

### The Props

All you need is about seven half-dollar coins, and a metal pail. Many pros use a *tooth brush can* as a "*pail*," but even a *tin can* will do - so long as you can hold it with four fingers inside, and it makes a loud *ringing sound* (called the "*clunk*") when a coin is dropped inside.

You also could buy a commercial *Coin Pail*, some with built-in "*gimmicks*." But these pails are expensive, you don't need the gimmicks, and the pails usually look like *champagne buckets* - which are vestiges of the past. This is why many pros today use a tooth brush can, available at *Bed, Bath, and Beyond*.

There are gimmicks for stealing additional coins, hiding "droppable" coins inside the pail, and faking the "clunk." But highly gimmicked pails are for collectors, not performers. Our version of *Miser's Dream* uses **no gimmicks**, so you need only the handful of coins (preferably half-dollars) and an un-gimmicked pail. (Later, however, we describe a "*coin ladder*," which is an *alternative* to the pail.)

### The Set-Up

Stack six coins on the *finger-tips* of your right hand, palm up. Tip the stack over *backwards*, so the *bottom coin* remains at your finger-tips, and the *overlapping coins* extend toward your palm.

Slide the pail *horizontally* over your fingers and the coins, grasping the upper side between your fingers (now inside the pail) and your thumb. The coins now are hidden, yet you can move the pail freely.

Hide *another coin* in your left hand in a *finger-palm position*. **You're ready to go!** This set-up is easier than it sounds, and with a little practice, you'll be able to do it **unnoticed** as you pick up your pail.

### The Performance

First, show the pail as "empty" (even though it's really not). Then, with your left hand, produce a coin from a child's ear. To "produce" this coin, simply slide it with your thumb until it's held between your left thumb and index finger. **Extend your other fingers** so the audience sees that you are holding **only one coin!**

Now *pretend* to drop this coin into your pail, but actually, **return it to the finger-palm position!** Use the *middle finger of your right hand* to push the bottom coin of your "hidden

*stack" into the pail. The coin from the "hidden stack" actually produces the "clunk" sound!*

Bring your left hand up with the original coin again in a finger-palm position, and you're ready to go again!

Our set-up lets you drop **seven** coins, which is **plenty!** In fact, the last three drops can be "*invisible coins*," instead of a "*produced*" coin.

To switch to "*invisible coins*," on the fourth drop, **really** drop the coin in your left hand into the pail. For the remainder of the routine, have audience members toss "*invisible coins*." Pretend to catch these "invisible coins" in the pail, releasing coins from your right hand to make the "clunks." For the finish, dump all seven coins onto a table top.

### Using a Coin Ladder

A "*coin ladder*" is an *alternative to the pail*. With most *coin ladders*, coins drop through a series of glass or metal panes, producing a *musical sound* as they fall. This dramatizes the "drop," and adds a *musical effect* to the routine. Of course, a ladder is both bulky and expensive.

If you use a ladder, I recommend one equipped with a "*waterfall*" feature, allowing you to release a dozen or more hidden coins **all at once**. This permits you to finish by having the *whole audience* throw invisible coins into the ladder at one time. Even if you don't always use the waterfall, it's nice to have this capability.

## Thank You for the Fine Photos



MagiCurrents wants to thank all the members who provide photos of our Ring and Community events. In this issue you will find the photos from **Mark Booth**. Because of his tireless efforts you get to see all of the fine events that happen at the Ring 76 meetings. If you have pictures of Ring events or Ring activities out in the San Diego area please send them to [Editor@Ring76.com](mailto:Editor@Ring76.com). We will try to get them into MagiCurrents and see you get the credit.



Mark Booth, photographer





## Gregory Wilson Lecture for Ring 76



San Diego Ring 76, International Brotherhood of Magicians



**RING 76 MAGIC STORE**



**SILENT AUCTION**

**JULY 10, 2022**

We are holding another silent auction at the installation banquet! Make sure you check out the amazing items available at unbeatable prices!

**NOW** is your chance to score on some **FUN TREASURES!**

Cash, Checks, and PayPal Accepted!

**When you arrive at the banquet, visit the auction and get your bidder number!**

**THE PRESTIGE**  
MAGIC LOUNGE & SHOWROOM



**Grand Opening!**

New to San Diego! The Prestige Magic Lounge and Showroom has arrived in the Gaslamp Quarter!

827 4th Ave  
Formerly, Illusions Theatre and Bar

Experience a 3 course dinner prepared by Award Winning Chef John Hornbrook featuring delicious entrée choices including:

- Roasted Prime Rib
- French Onion Chicken
- Vegetarian Lasagna
- Gourmet Mac and Cheese



Dinner is served in our grand showroom. Spirits and specialty drinks available. Witness highly acclaimed, award winning magicians amaze and dazzle every night!



**SAVE 50%**

Use Promo Code:  
**Prestige50**

We are excited to be here and to celebrate we are offering 50% off EVERY night!

This promo code may end without notice. Cannot be combined with other offers.

